

Torrance Spends a Few
Thousands to Produce
Millions in Return

WORKING for Los Angeles

"YOU CAN'T have your cake and eat it, too."

That has been said for centuries. But don't believe it too much, for Torrance has found the way to prove it false.

In the last few years Southern California has had three major construction jobs—so large that to visualize them is almost beyond the power of the average man. Boulder Dam—largest mass of concrete ever built by man, where he harnessed and tamed a wild, raging river and made it perform for him. Resulting, in turn, in power and water to spare, both of which are being brought to the Los Angeles vicinity through the Los Angeles Bu-

reau of Power and Light and the Metropolitan Water District, respectively.

Both of these will mean much to Torrance. Both will bring advantages for which Torrance is willing to spend real money. Yet both of them have already brought to Torrance much more than she will spend on them. So Torrance will have the cake—and has already eaten it.

Abundant Water

TAKE the water supply first. Here we have the largest construction job in progress in America today—\$220,000,000 worth of it to bring a never-failing supply to 13 cities in this vicinity. Torrance is a

member-city of the Metropolitan Water District, yet it will not need to draw on this reserve for many years, if ever. But if some industry requiring a tremendous water supply should seek a site, Torrance can supply it. It will not be necessary for that industry to seek a river—Torrance can bring the river to it.

Costs of this job are defrayed by bonds, purchased by the United States through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. In turn, the bonds will be retired from water revenues, yet because of the volume to be supplied this water will cost less than the average domestic water rate in large American cities. If Torrance needs to draw upon the river, she will pay in proportion to her use, yet save money by doing it. And if there is no need, Torrance will pay practically nothing—just the preliminary overhead as a member-city of the district.

Millions For Torrance

BUT ON the other hand, Torrance is getting millions of dollars from this job already, with more millions to come. One single contract, for 24,525 feet of concrete pipe, brings \$1,127,785.95 into the coffers of Torrance's United Concrete Pipe Corporation. And, in turn, this same job calls for over 13,000 tons—26,000,000 pounds—of coiled rounds in various sizes, made for United by the Columbia Steel plant.

So big is this pipe that it cannot be transported from the Torrance plant to the aqueduct location, so United is building a special plant at the aqueduct. And yet the completed contract will be for a little less than five of the 392 miles in the system. It is, also, only the first of the contracts to be let and it is quite likely that United will build many more miles of the line before its completion.

Half-Million to Soule

THEN, too, there's the little half-million dollars which Soule Steel Company has had in contracts. (To be accurate, this is over-stating the amount a trifle, the actual sum being \$80.35 short of a half-million. But we can make that up out of the \$55,422.87 which has come to Soule Steel and seven other Torrance concerns in ordinary purchase and transportation orders from the water district since January 1, 1933. Included are the National Supply Company, Hydril Company, Rubbercraft Corporation, Montgomery Lumber Company, Automatic Printing Company, William H. Toison, and Schultz & Peckham.)

But Boulder Dam is not only furnishing water (through its control of the Colorado which makes Parker Dam possible). It is directly responsible for a tremendous quantity of electric

power. In fact, more power than has ever before been furnished by any single work of man—or many of them combined, for that matter. And this power is to be brought to the Los Angeles area by the Bureau of Power and Light, making available so much electricity in this area that the biggest problem is to find where it can be disposed of.

Torrance Towers

BRINGING that power to the city is in itself a major job. And again Torrance comes to the foreground. For the huge 270-mile line of towers racing across the plains, mountains and desert, came, in large part, from Torrance.

Imagine a line of steel towers, each as high as a 12-story building, spaced every 800 to 1000 feet apart, running 40 miles out of Los Angeles. Follow it with a double row of similar towers, somewhat shorter for their height is but 109 feet as against the 144 feet of the others, for the other 230 miles and you will have a slight idea of what this job consists. Told that the steel used weighs 26,457 tons, and that 60 per cent of it was manufactured in Torrance by Columbia Steel and mathematics show about 15,875 tons to be of local origin.

Other Companies, Too

NOW ADD to that the shares of other Torrance concerns in this vast project. They include three contracts with International Derrick & Equipment Company, of \$6700 for the 155-foot ground wire towers at Silver Lake and Victorville; of \$4470 for switch

pedestals; and of \$3538 for portable buildings erected at the Yermo field headquarters. These latter have since been moved to Los Angeles and are used as warehouses at 1630 North Main street and at Century and Clovis.

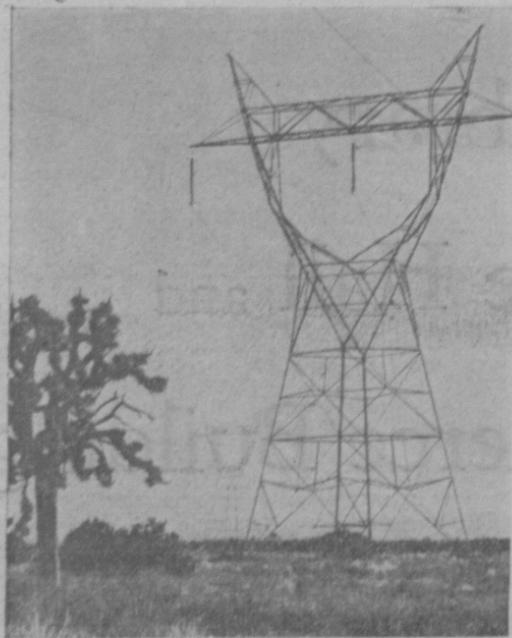
If your adding machine hasn't stripped a gear, tack on the \$4480 contract with Soule Steel for the reinforcing steel for tower foundations, 100 tons of it. Check in the 1500 tons Columbia Steel furnished for the switch racks, built by Emasco. Add an undetermined number of tons furnished to other contractors, such as Consolidated Steel, and grind out the total.

Then include the contract held by International Derrick with the department for galvanizing, as needed, which at one cent a pound, runs somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000 per year.

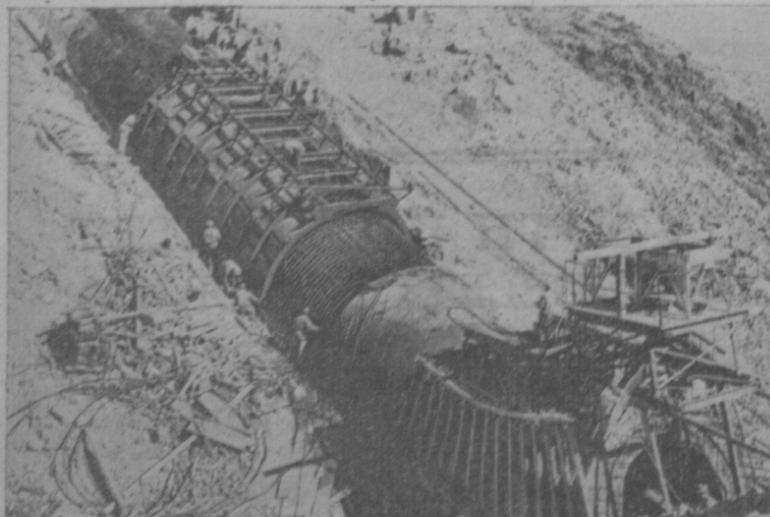
Oil Shares, Too

AND IF that isn't enough, consider that one of the bureau's engineers estimated that 50,000 tons of freight were hauled for the tower job by petroleum products having Torrance oil field as their origin.

Boulder Dam, man's mightiest concrete work, is now considered by Torrance manufacturing companies to be ancient history. And the records are, accordingly, buried as deep as the soil on the bottom of Mead Lake. But it can be stated that the power line for its construction was built by Ideco, with steel from the Columbia mills.



• Powerline Towers Were 'Born in Torrance.'



• Torrance Builds the Aqueduct Conduits.

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